



NEWS RELEASE

Huntsville Fire & Rescue

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HUNTSVILLE
The Star of Alabama

Mike Sublett
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Huntsville Fire and Rescue Receives a Grant Award from the Department of Homeland Security

Huntsville, Alabama (January 20, 2012) Huntsville Fire and Rescue received an award notification from the Department of Homeland Security for the 2011 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. This is the largest award in the State of Alabama under this program. There have been 35 awards in Alabama as of this date.

The grant is for the purchase of P25 interoperable subscriber radio equipment. The total project budget is \$822,490. The Department of Homeland Security will provide 80% (\$657,992) and the City of Huntsville will contribute 20% (\$164,498).

Project 25 (P25 or APCO-25) is a suite of standards for digital radio communications for use by federal, state/province and local public safety agencies in North America to enable interoperable communication with other agencies and mutual aid response teams.

The Madison County Communications District is currently managing an \$11 million dollar multi-agency project to replace our failing analog infrastructure with a digital P25 platform. This project is well underway with an estimated completion date of August 2012.

Our existing radio subscriber equipment will operate on the new platform but interoperable communications will not be achieved until all agencies upgrade their radio subscriber units with upgraded P25 radios. In addition to interoperable communications, this new radio equipment will replace 20 year old obsolete radios with state of the art equipment which will improve the safety of our Firefighters.

Editors note: Contact Chief Sublett at 256-427-7401 for more information.